HORSE RACING TERMINOLOGY

Across the Board: A method of betting whereby a horse is bet to win, place and

show, usually in the same amount.

Backstretch: The straightaway opposite the homestretch, usually from the

three-guarter mile pole to the three-eights pole.

Book: The group of mares bred to a stallion in a particular year.

Or, a jockey's commitments as handled by his agent.

Breakage: The money remaining after the payoffs are rounded off to a

dime on the dollar.

Breeder's Cup: The sport's seven race, \$11 million championship event.

Bug Boy: An apprentice jockey.

Chalk: The betting favorite.

Chute: The extension of the backstretch or homestretch where

seven-furlong or 10-furlong races often begin at most tracks;

also used in quarter-horse racing.

Classic: Used to refer to a few traditionally significant races, such as

the Kentucky Derby.

Colt: An ungelded male horse four (4) years old or younger.

Condition Book: The book that sets forth the possible races with their

conditions for which horses can be entered.

Crop: A group of horses born in the same year. Or, number of

foals by a particular stallion in a given year.

Cushion: The top layer of the racing surface.

Daily Racing Form: Daily publication that includes past performances and charts.

Dead Heat: A tie.

Drop: Moving down in class.

Early Foot: Speed, especially away from the starting gate.

Exercise Rider: A person who rides horses in workouts and gallops.

Exotic: Any multi-horse or multi-race wager.

Filly: Female horse four (4) years old or younger.

HORSE RACING TERMINOLOGY (Con't)

Foal: A horse in its first year of life. Or, to give birth.

Fractional Times: Internal fractions of a race.

Furlong: An eighth of a mile.

Going Away: To win with an increasing margin.

Groom: A person who feeds and cares for the horses at the stable.

Hand: Unit of measurement equaling four inches and used for

expressing a horse's height at the withers.

Handicap: To analyze the past performances and rate the horses in a

race. Or, a race for which the racing secretary assigns

weights.

Handle: The money wagered.

Hot walker: Person who walks horses to cool them out after exercise or

racing.

Jockey Club Formed in 1894 and based in New York, the organization

that serves as the registry for thoroughbreds in North

America.

Lead, right or left: The front leg that is left to hit the ground.

Length: Measurement used to denote distances between horses;

approximately equal to the length of a horse.

Mare: Female horse 5 years old or older.

Minus Pool: This results when betting is so heavy on a single horse that

after taxes and commissions, there's not enough remaining to pay the bettors mandated minimum. The racetrack makes

up the difference.

Neck: Measurement for beaten horses, approximately equal to a

horse's neck.

Off-track betting: Legalized betting at locations other than the racetrack.

Pari-mutuel: Form of wagering at the racetrack. Under the pari-mutuel

system, which was originated by Pierre Oller in 1865, all the money wagered is returned to the bettors after a set takeout, which means the bettors are competing among themselves

and not against the racetrack.

HORSE RACING TERMINOLOGY (Con't)

Pool: Sum of the money wagered in a particular way; e.g., the

place pool is all the money bet to place.

Post position: A horse's stall in the starting gate (e.g., a horse might break

from post position 5).

Post time: Time for a race to start.

Purse: Prize money offered in a race.

Quarter horse: A specific breed, used for work, recreation, cutting and

racing

Reserve: At auctions, the minimum acceptable price.

Scratch: To be declared or removed from the starting field, usually by

the trainer.

Simulcast: A televised race from another track.

Stallion: A male horse used for breeding.

Starter: The official responsible for the horses at the starting gate

and for a fair start of the race

Starter race: An allowance or handicap restricted to horses that have in

the past started for a designated claiming price.

Starting gate: The steel, mechanical gate that has stalls from which the

horses emerge at the start of the race.

Stewards Officials responsible for the enforcing the rules of racing.

Stooper: A person who picks up discarded tickets in the hopes of

finding some that are cashable.

Stretch: The straightaway that leads to the wire; also homestretch.

Takeout: Deductions from the mutual pools before the money is

returned to the bettors. For the most part, the takeout is

divided among the track, the horseman, and the State.

Thoroughbred: Breed developed specifically for racing. A Thoroughbred

must be registered with the Jockey Club or a recognized

foreign registry.

Yearling: A horse that is a year old and so is in its second calendar

year.